

Library of Virginia Receives Preserving America Grant Program Award for Virginia Convention of 1776 Records Conservation Project

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – The Library of Virginia is among 119 organizations nationwide selected for \$835,500 in Preserving America Grant Program awards announced by Americana Corner on Feb. 22, 2023. The organizations will receive funds to share stories of America's Founding Era.

Tom Hand, founder of Americana Corner, said, "I am thrilled to be able to help others across America tell our country's wonderful story."

The Library's Virginia Convention of 1776 Records Conservation Project received a \$10,000 grant through the Library of Virginia Foundation to help conserve a collection of invaluable materials that document some of the most momentous decisions made in Virginia's and the nation's history. Examples include the earliest-known full text of the resolutions instructing Virginia's representatives to the Continental Congress to introduce a declaration of independence and the earliest-known full text of George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights.

The Virginia Convention of 1776 Records Collection provides historical insight into Virginia's five revolutionary conventions held from Aug. 1, 1774, to July 5, 1776. The records include accounts, correspondence, journals and minutes from such notable founding fathers as Patrick Henry, George Mason, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

Conservation will prepare the collection for increased engagement during America's 250th anniversary in 2026. Previously converted to microfilm, the collection has remained largely untouched until now. The materials require professional conservation and digitization for use in student and teacher resources, scholarly research, public programs, community outreach and exhibitions.

"We are grateful for the support and recognition of this collection's national importance by Americana Corner," said Scott Dodson, executive director of the Library of Virginia Foundation. "As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, institutions like the Library of Virginia and collections such as the Virginia Convention of 1776 Records will be center stage to provide the public with educational resources and programs to understand the founding of American independence."

Americana Corner, an online resource focused on the founding of our nation, established its Preserving America Grant Program to help other organizations tell the incredible story of America from its founding era through its first century as a nation. Learn more at americanacorner.com.

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About the Library of Virginia

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 3.8 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.

About the Library of Virginia Foundation

Founded in 1984, the Library of Virginia Foundation supports the Library of Virginia and its mission by raising private financial support, managing its endowment and overseeing programming that brings Virginia's history and culture to life. The Foundation is a 501 c3 nonprofit governed by a Board of Trustees whose sole beneficiary is the Library of Virginia.

About Americana Corner

Americana Corner was founded by Tom Hand in 2020 as an online resource to help others rediscover America's incredible founding and first century of expansion. From the American Revolution to the settlement of the American West, from the Declaration of Independence to the Emancipation Proclamation, and from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln, Americana Corner contains positive stories of the great events, founding documents, and inspirational leaders who helped create and shape our country. Perhaps most importantly, Tom discusses why these events and people from so long ago still matter today.

About the Americana Corner Grant Program

The Preserving America Grant Program assists organizations that tell the story of our nation's wonderful past and rekindle a love for American history in all its splendor.